

the Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made thereunder. The grant of Indian citizenship is a multi-level and multi-agency activity involving detailed scrutiny at various levels such as Collector/ DM/DC, State Government/Union Territory Administration and Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the eligibility of the applicant to become a citizen of India. Therefore, due diligence is exercised at all levels before grant of Indian citizenship to a foreign national and it is ensured that an illegal immigrant is not granted Indian citizenship.

Persons injured and died in anti-rape agitation in Delhi

†1773. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of police lathi charge on demonstrators at India Gate against the incident of gang rape in December, 2012;
- (b) the number of people injured and died in the above lathi charge;
- (c) the number of people arrested by Government; and
- (d) whether Government is contemplating upon providing any kind of compensation to the injured persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Delhi Police had to resort to use of water cannon, tear gas shells and mild cane charge to disperse the unruly and violent crowd, which was determined to march towards North Block, South Block and President House after breaking police barricades repeatedly. The mob damaged government vehicles, indulged in arson, stone pelting and assaulted policemen on duty. Many protestors and police personnel got injured in this action. One police personnel died and 62 police personnel were injured. In addition to this, 140 public persons were also injured. Total 8 accused persons have been arrested.

Verma panel recommendations

1774. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Verma panel recommended sweeping changes in laws, tougher penalties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) how many have been considered for implementation; and
- (d) what are the reasons for not accepting the recommendations in *toto*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N SINGH): (a) to (d) Justice J. S. Verma Committee recommended amendments in the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to provide for more stringent punishment for acts of crime against women. Most of the amendments proposed by the Justice Verma Committee have been incorporated in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2013 contains 22 clauses. Of these 11 clauses have been taken from the pending Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, either totally or substantially. There is broad convergence between the provisions taken from the pending Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill and the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee. The remaining clauses reflect the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee.

Some of the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee have not been incorporated in the Ordinance because of divergence of opinion on the issues. Some of the major contentious points are:

- Presumption of consent where a marital relationship exists between the complainant and the accused (case of marital rape).
- There is divergence of opinion whether the age should be 16 years or 18 years for defining the offence of "rape of an under-age person".
- The recommendation of the Justice Verma Committee on creation of the offence of "breach of command responsibility"; amending section 197(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (relating to sanction);
- Amendments in the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

These issues require more consultations and deliberations. The issue on 'marital rape' and 'definition of age of juvenile person' needs more deliberations from societal considerations before taking any decision in this regard.

Implementing WHO guidelines for victims of sexual violence

1775. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the rate of conviction in rape cases in India in the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10;